THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. This mill has been found unviable as per the Techno Economic Viability Study. There has been no production activity in the mill since 1993 and the workers were being paid idle wages. BIFR, after studying the viability, ordered closure of this mill. Accordingly, the mill was closed under ID Act on 31 st October 2002 after paying Rs. 20.70 Cr. as VRS to workers. Sale of the land is undertaken as per the BIFR scheme only after due procedure has been followed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Despite the above-mentioned facts, in view of the request of the State Government, NTC has been directed to keep the sale of land in abeyance. The final decision regarding the sale would be taken after consultation with the State Government.

Asset Sale Committee of NTC

2534. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asset Sale Committee of National Textile Corporation has given permission to sell surplus lands to NTC subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the details of the pending requests for sale of surplus lands from closed NTC Mills; and

(d) by when ASC will examine and give permission for sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL) (a) and (b) Assent Sale Committees constituted by BIFR for sale of surplus assets of NTC have so far given permission for sale of 18 parcels of lands in 8 states, details of which are enclosed as statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) There are no pending requests with Asset Sale Committees.

Statement

Details of surplus land sold by NTC on the recommendations of Assets Sales Committees

s. No.	Name of the State	Area of land sold (In acres)	Price at which sold (Rs. in crores)
1.	Punjab	1.33	1.61
2.	Rajasthan	7.83	1.95
3.	Uttar Pradesh	16.72	16.47
4.	Maharashtra	43.67	13.15
5.	Tamilnadu	3.63	0.69
6.	Pondicherry	10.37	12.66
7.	Kerala	5.35	0.88
8.	Karnataka	13.59	61.34
	TOTAL	102.49	108.75

Export of Handicarft Products

2535. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of handicraft products exported during 2002;

(b) how much has been exported from Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to further improve the exports of handicraft products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The value of handicraft products exported during 2002-2003 is Rs. 10933.67 crores.

(b) State-wise export data on handicrafts is not-maintained.

(c) The steps taken to further improve the export of handicrafts products include: tapping new and unexplored markets in LAC, CIS & African Markets; focussed export promotion programmes in strong